
Montana Immunization Program Newsletter

Issue Date: April 8, 2016



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It's Still Not Too Late to Get the Flu Vaccine!

Although Montana saw an early start to the flu season back in September, influenza cases really increased across the state in March. The data seems to indicate we have not yet reached our peak for cases. Through the week ending April 9, 2016, Montana has had 239 hospitalizations and 9 deaths due to influenza. Approximately 70% of those hospitalized did not receive a seasonal influenza vaccine.

This is a reminder that it is not too late to administer the influenza vaccine! We encourage everyone to keep vaccinating throughout the influenza season. This is the best protection we have to prevent influenza related hospitalizations and deaths.

For more information about influenza, please click

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/cdepi/diseases/influenza.aspx>.

Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll

The Montana Immunization Program would like to recognize the vaccination efforts of Northern Montana Healthcare (NMH), located in Havre, MT. NMH was recently added to the

Immunization Action Coalition's nationwide Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll. NMH achieved 97% hepatitis B vaccine birth dose coverage of infants born in their facility from January 2015 through December 2015.

The application for the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll was a collaborative effort with the Hill County Health Department (HCHD) and NMH. Bridget Kallenberger of the HCHD stated "Public Health knows firsthand the importance of infants receiving their hepatitis B birth dose and we wanted to ensure our local partner received recognition for all of the work that they are doing to support public health."

Criteria for the award includes a hepatitis B vaccine coverage rate of 90% or greater before hospital discharge to all newborns, including those whose parents refuse vaccination and implementation of written policies, procedures, and protocols to protect all newborns from hepatitis B virus infection prior to hospital discharge.

Barrett Hospital, in Dillon, MT has been listed on the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll in 2013 and 2014 for a coverage rate of 96-97%.

To apply for enrollment to the Hepatitis B Birth Dose Honor Roll go to:
<http://www.immunize.org/honor-roll/birthdose/apply.aspx>



VFC Corner

Monthly VFC Hot Topics Webinars

When: Every other month, last Tuesday and Thursday of the month.

[Updated Hot Topics Schedule](#)

[Archived Presentations](#)

Month	Topic
April	Vaccine Storage and Transport In this webinar, we will be reviewing resources for vaccine storage, vaccine incident reports (VIR), data logger program updates, vaccine transport, including new pack-out for electric and non-electric coolers. This is the same presentation given at our regional immunization workshops in April.

Tuesday April 26th 12:00 p.m.	Meeting Password: montana https://hhsmt.webex.com/hhsmt/j.php?MTID=me034acc512d5a194f911edbcdae15cc6 Audio Access Code: 802 425 588
Thursday April 28th 8:00 a.m.	Meeting Password: montana https://hhsmt.webex.com/hhsmt/j.php?MTID=mf324c6d4efc15db8910db41295e0ff2e Audio Access Code: 803 422 324

(Archived recording will be available for viewing)

June Quality Improvement 101

Reminders

Data Logger Re-Calibration

The two year calibration on our State-supplied data loggers expires this September. We are happy to report that the Immunization Program will be able to facilitate and pay for the re-calibrations. This does not include your backup data loggers. Backup data loggers came with a three-year calibration and will come due next year. Please be on the lookout early summer for an email with instructions on the re-calibration process.

Data Logger Management Reminders

Use Our Loggers! – Just a reminder that all Montana VFC providers are required to use our State-supplied data loggers in their public vaccine storage units and follow our temperature monitoring protocols unless you have an approved exemption to use your own equipment.

Download Monthly – Our State-supplied data loggers can only hold 3.5 months of data. When the memory is full, they stop working. Downloading, reviewing, and archiving your data monthly will prevent this from happening.

Sending Data to the Immunization Program – We require storage unit approval data from:

- New VFC providers
- Providers setting up a new VFC storage unit
- Providers reinstating a VFC storage unit after a repair
- Providers commissioning a new Data Logger or other program-compliant thermometer.

After approval, we do not require that you submit data regularly to us unless there is a

temperature excursion or other issue. ALL data should be submitted using our online Vaccine Incident Report found here:

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/Immunization/TemperatureIssues.aspx>

Questions? Contact Lori Hutchinson or Katie Grady-Selby at hhsiz@mt.gov.

Vaccines In Practice

Ask the Experts: CDC Experts Answer Your Questions Issue 1235: March 22, 2016

The questions and answers in this edition of *IAC Express* first appeared in the [March 2016 issue of Needle Tips](#).

Q: We have a healthy 66-year-old patient who received a dose of PPSV23 in January then received a dose of PCV13 five months later at a different facility. Should the PCV13 dose be repeated since it was given earlier than the 1-year interval recommended by ACIP?

A: ACIP recommends that healthy people age 65 years and older receive PCV13 first, then PPSV23 one year later. When PPSV23 has been given first, ACIP recommends an interval of one year before giving PCV13. What to do when doses of PPSV23 and PCV13 are given without the recommended minimum interval is not addressed in the ACIP recommendations. The CDC subject matter experts have advised that in such a case, the dose given second does not need to be repeated. This is an exception to the usual procedure for a minimum interval violation as described in ACIP's General Recommendations on Immunization (see www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr6002.pdf, page 5). There is no evidence to support that there are benefits to repeating the dose of PCV13. Information about the recommended intervals between pneumococcal vaccines can be found at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6434.pdf, pages 944–7.

Questions? Contact Susan Reeser, Nurse Consultant, sreeser@mt.gov or (406) 444-1805.



National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW): April 16-23, 2016

Parents work hard to protect their babies. That's why most parents choose immunization. National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is a national observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases by age two.

For some diseases like diphtheria, tetanus, and whooping cough (pertussis), toddlers should receive four doses of DTaP by age two. In Montana, 83% of toddlers have received these doses.

Check your child's immunization record or talk to your child's healthcare provider to make sure your child has received all the recommended vaccines. For more reasons to vaccinate, visit cdc.gov/vaccines.



National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is right around the corner!

The Immunization Program has sponsored an educational message on Pandora, the online music streaming application, to target young parents about the importance of protecting infants from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases. In addition, the banner above was sent to public health departments to post to their website or newsletter, to help raise awareness about the importance of vaccinating infants.

Planning something for NIIW? Submit your activity to CDC [HERE](#).

2016 Immunization Provider Education Series

Immunizations: Building Trust During the Time of Twitter

May 25, 2016 from 12-1:00pm

Presented by Wendy Sue Swanson, MD, MBE, FAAP

Hosted Recording of Immunizations: Building Trust During the Time of Twitter

May 26, 2016 from 12-1:00pm

Montana Immunization Staff will be available to answer questions.

Dr. Swanson is a well-respected pediatrician who is nationally recognized for her work to bridge the gap of communication between doctors and patients. One of the ways Dr. Swanson communicates with her patients is through social media, including her blog Seattle Mama Doc,

Facebook, and Twitter. She is an advocate for public health, including immunizations and will be sharing her experiences working with parents in her presentation. To read her blog, click [HERE](#).

Click [HERE](#) for webinar login information and additional details about the webinar series.

Questions? Contact the Immunization Program at (406) 444-5580 or hhsiz@mt.gov.



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